

REMARKS

Claims 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16-17 are pending in the subject application.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 18-19 and amended claims 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16-17 to incorporate limitations of the claims that they previously depended from to become independent claims. Claims 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16-17 have also been amended to improve the language in accordance with the U.S. practice. The amendments are self-explanatory and supported by the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicants request the entry of the claim amendments after final, as they raise no issues of new matter and place the subject application in condition for allowance.

Applicants request favorable reconsideration of the subject application in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC§103

Claims 1-7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over cited prior art references.

In response, Applicants have canceled claims 1-7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 18-19. Therefore, the rejection is moot.

Allowable Subject Matters

The Examiner's Action indicated that claims 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, Applicants have rewritten claims 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16-17 in independent form. Therefore, these claims are in condition for allowance, early notice of which is requested.

A fee of \$210 is required for the 2 added independent claims. Please charge the same and any other required fee to Deposit Account No. 50-2586 and notify Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
Perkins Coie LLP

Date: July 15, 2008

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